

Aiscellaneous

NOTES FROM NANKING.

By Rev. J. Leighton Stuart, D. D.

The Seminary opened its fall term on September 14 with the largest enrollment it has ever yet had-seventyseven old and twenty-two new students. One more man is expected from Swatow, which will make the number an even hundred. The Semicourse proper has fifty-seven

men, and the School of Bible Training forty-two. This is an encouarging proportion, as indicating that more of the better educated men are offering for the gospel ministry. As this continues to be one of the most difficult problems for the Christian movement in China, the increase is full of significance. The geographical distribution of the men is also quite striking. Although Nanking is in east central China, yet we have men from the extreme northern, southern and western provinces. In fact, of the eighteen provinces of China proper, eleven are represented. The classification by churches is again suggestive. In addi-

tion to the five constituent bodies, twelve organizations have sent students. Perhaps the most encouraging single instance is a young man from Tientsin, a graduate from a government college, the president of which, Mr. Chang Po Ling, was a high official of the old regime, who gave himself to educational work as being the hope of the nation, and has been enthusiastic, joyous and active Christian for several years. The young man was led into the ministry largely through his influence, and, although Nanking is over eight hundred miles from his home, our Seminary was selected as best realizing his ideal. He belongs to a well-to-do family and is paying all of his own expenses. We have another self-supporting student from the other extreme of China, Kwangsi, who, not without opposition, found the money to make the long trip and take our full three years' course entirely at his own charges. Another man from the far-away island of Hainan was given or lent (he is not quite sure which) by a relative a sum of money, which he has invested entirely in coming here for three years. In his case, he has the additional hardship of being unintelligible to all of his teachers and fellow-students, in cluding two other men from Hainan! Fortunately, the students' Y. M. C. A., among its other activities, is giving a course in Mandarin to such as he, of whom we have several. Apropos of this organization, it is more active than ever and maintains in addition to the item just mentioned such enterprises as a service bureau for sick students; a night school for artisans, including the servants of the institution; a Magazine, which we hope will be the continuance of our present Theological Quarterly; an athletic de-

partment, the need and the difficulty of conducting which all who know Chinese students of fairly mature years can appreciate; daily evening prayers; and a system of voluntary Bible classes, which aim to include every student in observing the morning watch. The practical religious work of the students is following the usual lines. Every one is assigned to some form of weekly activity under responsible oversight, which we hope will be no small part of the value of their course here.

Now, a word as to the figures for our own missions. In the Seminary course, North Kiangsu has two seniors and the Mid-China four juniors.

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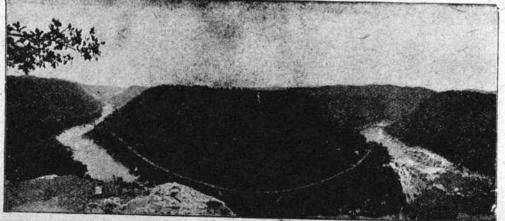
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